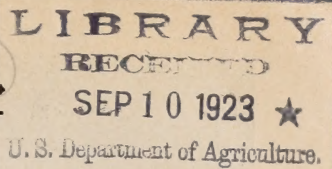


## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



52.73  
Special Offer to the Trade.



11  
c of 3  
**Burpee's PINK Cupid.**

*To the Seed Trade:*


*November, 1897.*

With special pleasure we introduce the

## Dwarf Sweet Pea,—Burpee's PINK Cupid

As undoubtedly THE Novelty for 1898.

Although the seed is now first offered for sale, we sent out last spring about seventy trial packets of ten seeds each to leading horticulturists in Europe and America, from whom we have received the most gratifying reports. Being a hardy *black-seeded* variety, it germinates freely and grows vigorously everywhere.

 **Burpee's PINK Cupid** is sold only in our **sealed packets**, and *we shall refuse orders from any houses who may break the packages.*

Considerable confusion resulted two years ago, when introducing **the Original White CUPID Sweet Pea**, from the fact that several American and European houses *opened our packets* and put up a different number of seeds. **Burpee's PINK Cupid for 1898** *must be sold in our original sealed packets*, and we have instructed our agents in Europe, also, to decline orders from any houses who may want to re-paper the seed in smaller packets.

**Sole Wholesale Agents for Great Britain, Australian Colonies, and India:**

**Messrs. HURST & SON, 152, Houndsditch, London, England.**

MESSRS. HURST & SON have a **complete set of electrotypes** and are authorized to quote *special prices by the thousand packets.*

**Burpee's PINK Cupid** will be ready to ship to Europe early in November. No American orders for **Burpee's PINK Cupid** will be filled, however, before the end of December.

**W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO.,**

PHILADELPHIA, U. S. A.

Cable Address, BURPEE, Philadelphia.



A FIELD OF BURPEE'S PINK CUPID. Engraved from a Photograph.

## Dwarf Sweet Pea,—Burpee's PINK Cupid

This little wonder, like the original Cupid, hails from California, having been discovered by C. C. Morse & Co., to whom we paid *fifteen hundred dollars cash* for the exclusive ownership when there were only 1060 seeds in existence. It is not a sport from the original White Cupid, but an actual departure from its parent, the tall Blanche Ferry. In habit and manner of growth it is strictly a Cupid, spreading from the root, from a foot to eighteen inches around, growing from six to eight inches high, and shooting up stems about six inches long, which bear, in full bloom at once, from *three to four handsome blossoms*, all borne close to the end of the stem.

The flower itself is pretty enough, but its attractiveness is doubled by its association with CUPID,—the first colored Cupid to follow the famous dwarf white.

The standard of the flower is wide, not infrequently measuring an inch and a half, but not over an inch high, being developed latterly. It usually curves over a trifle from the top, partly concave, which gives the standard a distinct shell-shaped appearance. The standard is a bright rose-pink, while the wings are pure white or light pink. The wings are very large and finely formed; when pressed back against the standard they extend fully a quarter of an inch beyond it.

The substance of the blossom is peculiarly heavy and it will appear fresh and vigorous in a glass of water long after its long-stemmed parent has withered and died. The plant itself is vigorous and hardy, and those who had poor or indifferent success with White Cupid will find **Burpee's PINK Cupid easy to grow anywhere**. The seed, which is *black*, is of wonderfully strong germination, and the plant an early bloomer, coming into bloom simultaneously with White Cupid.

Though flowering early, it continues in bloom very late, bearing a profusion of blossoms so thickly as to completely hide the plant itself. It will be without a rival as a bedding and border annual, for its color and fragrance make it a rare novelty.

In our field crops the past season, both in California and New York, a large piece of them looks as if the ground were literally strewn with bright pink rose-buds. No novelty of recent introduction has such brightness, beauty, and grace combined as **Burpee's PINK Cupid**. It is also delightfully fragrant, and will be admired by every one who sees it.

Our prices for 1898 are :

In regular-size packets (each containing twenty-four seeds) :

Per pkt. 25 cts. ; 5 pkts. for \$1.00 ; per dozen pkts. \$2.00.

**Per 100 pkts. \$12.50.**

A lower rate will be quoted by **the thousand packets**.

In half-size packets (each containing twelve seeds) :

Per pkt. 15 cts. ; 2 pkts. for 25 cts. ; or 10 pkts. for \$1.00.

**Per 100 pkts. \$7.50.**

A lower rate will be quoted by **the thousand packets**.

Directions for culture in English, French, and German printed upon each packet.



A Single Plant, exactly engraved from a Photograph of

## Dwarf Sweet Pea,—Burpee's PINK Cupid.

The illustration above has been accurately engraved from a photograph of a single plant, grown in ordinary field culture, lifted and set in a pot on a platform for the purpose of photographing on a level with the camera. Every plant in our fields in California, New York, and at Fordhook Farm was absolutely true,—a perfect "Blanche Ferry Cupid." The flowers are always of full size, measuring from one and one-quarter to one and a half inches across the standard—covering a silver dollar.

As this plant is a fair sample we would state that it measured six to eight and one-half inches high by nineteen to twenty-four inches in diameter, spreading on the ground. We could give record of the number of flowers and buds, by actual count, on a single plant of Burpee's PINK Cupid, but will merely refer to the editorial from AMERICAN GARDENING, on page 6, in which MR. LEONARD BARRON says, "We counted 121 stalks in blossom on one plant and an average of three flowers to a stem."

### Report from MR. ECKFORD.

WEM, SHROPSHIRE, ENGLAND,

September 13, 1897.

MESSRS. W. ATLEE BURPEE & Co.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:—I am pleased to tell you that the "PINK CUPID" Sweet Pea you were good enough to send me for trial has been a great success. White Cupid has done much better than last year, but still not up to the Pink variety, which holds its bloom better and consequently gives a much better display. I don't think too much can be said in favour of Pink Cupid. At present it occupies the place of honour in dwarf Sweet Peas.

Descriptions of Novelties will follow in a mail or two. I am afraid it will not be possible to send you "Countess Cadogan" this year; the crop is very small, but you shall know definitely in a few days. I hope Mr. Burpee reached Philadelphia safely. Please give him my kind regards.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY ECKFORD.

### AMERICAN GARDENING.

A. T. DE LA MARE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.,  
LTD., PROPRIETORS.

NEW YORK, September 9, 1897.

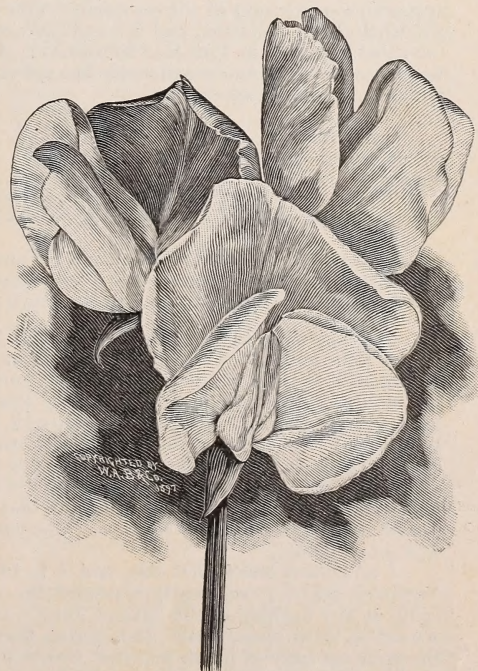
MESSRS. W. ATLEE BURPEE & Co.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:—I have just returned from a trip to Jefferson County, New York, where one of the most beautiful sights to me was a bed of PINK CUPID. It was a mass of blossoms exhaling a delicious fragrance into the air; and that its past had been equally grand was evidenced by the seed pods, while the promise for the rest of the season lay in the multitude of buds yet to expand.

Truly as a flowering bedder Pink Cupid is a success.

Yours faithfully,

LEONARD BARRON,  
Editor A. G.



Burpee's PINK Cupid bears generally three and sometimes four flowers to a stem. The illustration above was accurately engraved from a photograph, exactly natural size. The flowers are identical with the tall-growing Blanche Ferry and are always fully equal in size.

# TESTIMONY FROM GERMANY.

Translated from

THE HANDELSBLATT, No. 31, Berlin, August 1, 1897.

## Lathyrus Odoratus Cupido "rosa."

No. 29 of THE HANDELSBLATT contains a notice, according to which, it is claimed, seed of the American Novelty *Lathyrus Odoratus Cupido* "rosa," sent by the grower direct to the editor of this journal for trial, did not germinate. This is, to say the least, astonishing, for I also received from the grower seed in the same way, of which every seed germinated. It is further claimed, according to above notice, that at the Exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society at London plants of this variety, exhibited in the open ground, appeared to relapse into the original variety. I am constrained to dispute this also, as with me every plant proved itself perfectly true both in habit and color.

During the past year I have planted large quantities of Cupid (white), and during the present year over one acre. I have exhibited them in Leipsic and Hamburg on a large scale, and there was not a single plant among the entire lot which showed a tendency to relapse into the original variety. I am much delighted with the manner in which this novelty retains its habit and color of the flower, a fact not often witnessed with other novelties.

HERRMANN GRUSSDORF,

Of the firm of MARTIN GRASHOFF.

I have read in No. 29 of THE HANDELSBLATT an opinion of *Lathyrus odor. Cupido* "rosa," which compels me to make the following comments:

I received, last spring, from W. Atlee Burpee & Co. 12 seeds of this novelty for trial planting, 11 of which germinated. The plants developed splendidly with a profusion of blossoms. The flowers are of fine form, solid, standard bright red, and wings white. Plants have plenty of seed, which I expect to gather the early part of August. They grow in low, compact bushes, having a diameter of 25 to 30 centimeters, and a height of 12 to 15 centimeters.

The white-flowering Cupid this year did splendidly. The first planting showed a large quantity of seed, which will be picked off during the first week in August. Of the second sowing, beginning of May, I submit a specimen plant, which, though having lost somewhat in appearance on account of the continuous rains during the past few days, will prove conclusively the truth of my assertion, and is a sufficient contradiction of the unjust and unfavorable criticism that appeared in THE HANDELSBLATT. I desire also to state that the accompanying plant was not selected as an exceptionally fine specimen, but was taken at random from the bed upon which Cupid was planted later.

Quedlinburg.

FRIEDR. ROEMER.

## The Highest Testimony from France

In answer to a personal letter from Germany, Mr. E. SCHAETTEL, of the well-known firm of MESSRS. VILMORIN-ANDRIEUX & Co., Paris, August 20, 1897, wrote as follows, concerning Burpee's PINK Cupid, tested in the firm's gardens both at Reuilly and Verrieres:

By referring to the *Bulletin de la Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France* for July, 1897, which you must have received, you will find the following note: "A Messrs. Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co., 4 Quai de la Mégisserie, Paris, au nom de Mons. Burpee des Etats-Unis une prime de 3e Classe pour 6 pots de Pois de Senteur Cupidon nain à fleur rose," and our leading horticultural paper, THE REVUE HORTICOLE, says in its number of the 16 July, No. 14, when speaking of the exhibits at the Société d'Horticulture: "Il faut signaler une nouveauté intéressante, le Pois de Senteur Cupidon rose, ce que détruira la monotonie de cette nouveauté."

When we showed the first plants of "Cupid rose," early in June, they had not flowers enough, but our head gardener thought that the flowers might be passed by the time of the second meeting on the 24th of June. The Committee, therefore, voted only "thanks" for this first lot of plants.

I afterward heard that they had 8 to 10 very fine plants of the "Cupid rose" grown at Verrieres, and I consequently requested the chief of the growing department to stage them again at the meeting of the 24th of June. For this second exhibit the Committee voted an Award of third class, which, considering that you already obtained a first-class certificate for the same category of plant, and that Sweet Peas are not a very popular flower in France, is a good attestation for the merits of the new color.

I think that the firm will not have the least objection to your mentioning in your circulars that the rose Cupid Pea has succeeded very well in our grounds, has been admired by all who saw it, and that it will prove a valuable acquisition as a border plant.

# Reports on Burpee's PINK Cupid.

GEO. C. BUTZ, M. S., Horticulturist of the Pennsylvania State College Agricultural Experiment Station, State College, Centre Co., Pa., Sept. 9, 1897, writes:—From the ten seeds of BURPEE'S PINK CUPID SWEET PEA we have ten good plants, which began flowering when seven inches high, and now, full grown, are but fourteen inches long. As they rest upon the ground they make a mass of foliage and flowers about ten inches high. The flowers are above medium size, with broad, erect, slightly convex standard; the wings are large and arch over the keel after the manner of the White Cupid. The color of the standard is a light shade of pink, finely striped with carmine-pink; the wings are rosy-purple blotched with white. Burpee's Pink Cupid is an excellent companion for the White Cupid, and will always have a place to fill because of its dwarf habit.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Seedsman, Floral Park, N. Y., September 4, 1897, writes:—From the ten seeds of BURPEE'S PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, which you kindly sent us for trial, we raised several plants which bloomed freely. The style of growth and size of flower is exactly like the White Cupid, but the color is a beautiful pink, after the style of Painted Lady. It is certainly a most desirable acquisition.

L. W. GOODELL, Seedsman and Florist, Pansy Park, Dwight, Mass., Sept. 7, 1897, writes:—The packet of PINK CUPID SWEET PEA sent me for trial contained eleven seeds. They were planted early in March on a greenhouse bench along with other seeds. Every seed grew; in fact, there were twelve plants, an examination showing that one of the seeds had produced two sprouts, evidently having had two embryos. After they had grown an inch or two they were transplanted to four-inch pots, and finally shifted to the flowering-pots, five- and six-inch. The plants were rather slender at first, but soon made strong lateral growths and fine plants. They have flowered freely, the first flowers opening early in June, and are still in bloom at this date, although they do not flower so freely now as earlier in the season. It is, in my opinion, a valuable acquisition. Its beautiful color, just like Blanche Ferry, and the fact that the seeds germinate as freely under ordinary conditions as any of the common varieties, will, no doubt, make it the most popular novelty of 1898.

JOHNSON & STOKES, Seedsmen, Philadelphia, Sept. 4, 1897, write:—Yours of September 2d, in regard to PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, received. The seeds in the packet sent us for trial germinated well and gave us quite a profusion of bloom, and we were surprised at the size of the individual flower, which was quite equal to Blanche Ferry.

WEBBER & DON, Seed Merchants, 114 Chambers Street, New York, Sept. 7, 1897, write:—Replying to yours of the 2d inst., regarding PINK CUPID SWEET PEAS sent us for trial last year, we would say that we tested same, and the results were entirely satisfactory. The dwarf form being very useful in pot culture, and the colors of the flowers perfect. We think it a good "Novelty." Every seed grew and formed a plant.

F. B. GAULT, President of the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—Replying to your favor of Sept. 7, would state that we have found BURPEE'S PINK CUPID very satisfactory so far as prolific blooming and beauty of flower is concerned. It is a very attractive flower.

GEORGE VESTAL, Professor of Agriculture and Horticulture, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station, Mesilla Park, N. M., Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—The plants from BURPEE'S PINK CUPID seed sent to this station for trial last winter did finely. The plants are very compact and floriferous. The color quite distinct and pleasing. As compared with White Cupid they grew and bloomed freer.

H. BENTON, Secretary Canebrake Agricultural Experiment Station, Uniontown, Ala., Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—The seeds of BURPEE'S PINK CUPID were planted on the same plot with New Sweet Pea from California, Aurora, Golden Gate, Creole, Cupid, American Seedling, Brilliant, Maid of Honor, and were on an adjoining plot to Eckford's Mixture. PINK CUPID was as luxuriant grower and as profuse bloomer as any of them. Indeed, it is quite a profuse bloomer and is a most beautiful shade of pink. Pardon the personality,—but my Sweet Peas did excellent this year, and many ladies commented on their beauty and asked from whom I got the seed. Answer—BURPEE.

MESSRS. BIDDLES & Co., Loughborough, England, August 30, 1897, write:—We like the Sweet Pea very much and think it will prove a good acquisition.

MESSRS. HURST & SON, 152, Houndsditch, London, England, Sept. 18, 1897, write:—When sending you copies of the reports from our customers re PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, we by an oversight omitted to include that from Mr. Sherwood. We now have pleasure in saying he considers this variety a great acquisition and a fitting companion to the white variety. It is very floriferous, excellent in color and well fixed in habit. For pots or ribbon bordering it will be found all that is desired.

M. A. SCOVELL, Director, Agricultural Experiment Station of the State College of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—We had great success with your Burpee's Pink Cupid this year.

HENRY E. GLAZIER, Horticulturist, of the Oklahoma Agricultural College and Experiment Station, Still Water, Okla., Sept. 13, 1897, writes:—Replying to your favor of September 2, 1897, will say we planted BURPEE'S PINK CUPID with 25 other choice varieties. Our Sweet Peas were the admiration of all, especially Burpee's Pink Cupid. I have no hesitancy in saying that the Burpee's Pink Cupid should be crowned queen.

ADOLPH JAENICK, Florist, Landscape Gardener, and Seed Grower, Hagerstown, Md., Sept. 4, 1897, writes:—Your PINK CUPID is really a great, great improvement on the White Cupid, not in growth, for they have both the same compact habit; nor in abundance of flowers, for in that Pink Cupid is the worthy brother of the White; but the newborn pink imp is decidedly stronger than the White. In the Eastern parts of the United States White Cupid got somewhat scorched in the dry and hot month of July, and buds failed to open; this is entirely different in the Pink. Your ten seeds you were kind enough to send me I sowed out, and had of them nine plants; by the middle of June they were in full bloom, and were very much admired.

## Sweet Pea Cupid.

A few days ago, when visiting Mrs. Price's garden at Pen-Moel, near Chepstow, I was surprised to have some excellent clumps of this variety pointed out to me by Mr. Simpson, the gardener. He had planted the clumps in various positions, and each of them was a mass of blossoms. Some of the clumps were also podding freely. —From THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE, London, England, July 17, 1897.

MESSRS. FISHER, SON & SIBRAY, Sheffield, England, August 20, 1897, write:—Very great improvement on Cupid in size of flower, and a profuse bloomer.

MESSRS. PETER LAWSON & SON, LIMITED, Edinburgh, Scotland, August 31, 1897, write:—In reply to yours of the 20th, we tested the PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, and found it a pleasing and attractive Novelty, for which we expect there will be a good demand.

MESSRS. W. CLIBRAN & SON, Manchester, England, August 21, 1897, write:—In reply to yours of the 20th of August, no doubt the NEW SWEET PEA PINK CUPID will be an acquisition. It is a pleasing color, and the flowers do not seem to drop the same as the White variety.

MESSRS. FIDLER & SONS, Reading, England, August 21, 1897, write:—We are duly in receipt of your kind inquiry. We have made a trial of the new PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, and have found it do exceeding well. We consider it a novelty of splendid merit, and must prove a great acquisition to the Sweet Pea class.

MESSRS. E. P. DIXON & SONS, Hull, England, August 21, 1897, write:—The Pink Cupid Sweet Pea has done very well with us, growing about seven inches high, and producing very handsome pink flowers; it blooms freely and will be very suitable for pot culture.

MESSRS. DOBBIE & Co., Orpington, Kent, England, August 23, 1897, write:—We duly received the packet of Sweet Pea "PINK CUPID"; nine of the ten seeds grew and produced plants which have bloomed more freely we think than Cupid. It has really done very well with us. Cupid does very well with us as in any place we have seen. The color of Pink Cupid is good, and it will prove a valuable companion to the White one.

## The Sweet Pea Crop.

Sweet Peas are also improving daily, and if the gloomy anticipations of the growers on your side are verified by results our growers may be disposed to take up their culture once more. The Pink Cupid is now in bloom and fully justified our expectations, although the color is different to what we had supposed it would be. It is a Blanche Ferry with the Cupid habit reproduced in every particular, and unless America has something of a more startling nature in store for us it will probably be the novelty for next season.—EUROPEAN SEEDS IN THE FLORISTS' EXCHANGE, New York, July 3, 1897.

# Editorial from AMERICAN GARDENING,

New York, September 18, 1897.

## Concerning the Cupid Sweet Peas.

WHEN first it was announced that a new race of dwarf Sweet Pea had sprung into existence, a considerable amount of excitement was manifested throughout horticultural circles in Europe as well as in our own country. The possible value of this new arrival was largely discussed in the columns of *American Gardening* at the time, and it must be allowed the evidence produced was of a very conflicting nature.

In the year following the introduction of the original White Cupid Sweet Pea, the appearance of another dwarf with pink flowers began to be spoken of, and the introducers, MESSRS. W. ATLEE BURPEE & Co., of Philadelphia, early this season distributed among horticulturists a few seeds of the pink variety for trial. It has been noticed that while the Cupid Sweet Peas have not been so well favored in this country, the European gardeners have reported most favorably upon them, and it has been argued that though the plant did well on the Pacific Coast it would not hold up on the Atlantic sea-board. In view of recent experiences of our own, it is well to ask,—Why this suggestion? It would seem that those who have reported adversely upon these novelties have been judging from a wrong standpoint—that of the cut-flower grower, as is evidenced by the communication which appeared in our issue of July 17th last (page 502). Again, there have doubtless been errors of cultivation or treatment.

The demands of the decorative horticulturist are for many other plants than those which furnish flowers for cutting, and each one has its place; the evergreen shrub for perpetual greenery and life in winter; the grass plants to make a lawn as a setting for the flower beds; the ornamental foliaged plants to give color to a formal design; each has its use, and while each subject affords a mine of pleasure and satisfaction in its proper place, disappointment is sure to follow its improper application, and herein do so many mentors of horticultural opinion and taste fall into error.

That the Cupid Sweet Peas have suffered by just such conditions is apparent. The plants are essentially bedders—flowering bedders—and we are convinced by a recent experience in Jefferson County, N. Y., that, properly used in its own sphere, the dwarf Sweet Pea is to be placed in rank with other first-class plants of that type. No one grumbles at the Portulaca, yet it is but a flowering bedder, and how valuable in quiet suggestion are these Cupid Sweet Peas can only be realized by an actual inspection of such a showing as is represented in our frontispiece illustration in this issue, which is an actual photograph of the pink Cupid bed referred to in the foregoing remarks.

The effect produced by thus massing in an area, 50 x 40 feet, was astonishing to one who had before seen but a few isolated plants. Not only was the color fine (it is that of Blanche Ferry Sweet Pea, from which the pink Cupid has sported), but there was added the shading and blending of the hues of rosy-pink as the sun's rays glinted across a sheet of blooms in all positions, some full on, some sideways; there was moreover the ever welcome fragrance of the Sweet Pea wafted on the breeze.

And this matter of fragrance is not by any means a minor detail, though occasionally in our modern rush for "development" we are liable to sacrifice that prime quality to other considerations of size, form, and color. For was it not the fragrance that first called man's attention to the original *Lathyrus odoratus*? The name itself tells us so; and is not the Violet's chief charm in its odor?

A German contemporary has in a recent issue attacked the pink and white Cupid Sweet Peas; and, after reproducing certain discourteous allusions of a native seed firm, to "strictly American pompous recommendations," goes on to relate the same author's remarks that the plant is a "dwarf garden vetch," which it certainly is not. It further, "to complete the different expressions of opinion," quotes from *American Gardening* the sentences referred to in the first part of this note, and leaves the reader to infer that it was the expression of the paper itself. We object to that, and the *Handelsblatt* of Berlin will oblige by accepting with our compliments the present expression of opinion of the merits of the Cupid Sweet Peas.

The owner of the bed of pink Cupids, which is shown on page 645, informed us that the seed was sown two and a half inches deep in hills two feet six inches apart, and the whole then treated as a hoed crop. The soil was a heavy cold clay loam, and had received a surface dressing of lime, but this application can hardly have had much influence on the plants which were perfectly at home, flowering profusely—we counted 121 stalks in blossom on one plant and an average of three flowers to the stem. The health and vigor of the plants were fully demonstrated by the hundreds of seed pods from flowers already overpast, and though still carrying so freely there were buds innumerable yet to expand. The height of the plant was six to eight inches, and the spread generally two feet, while occasionally one would run to thirty inches and even more, while the individual blooms measured across the standard one and one-quarter inches.

The claim that Cupid seed had a low figure of germination has not been borne out by our experience and observation. Given the proper conditions, the Cupids are all right.

See Mr. Barron's Letter, page 3.



A representative of the *Florists' Exchange* made a trip into Jefferson County, N. Y., for the express purpose of putting to an end all doubt, as to whether statements and expressions not distinctly favorable to the Cupid Sweet Peas were true.

That these dwarf sweet peas flourished in full splendor in the climate of California has not once been disputed, but at the same time the claim has been urged that this novelty would not develop in the East, as it did in the West, its home.

The *Florists' Exchange* has been desirous of obtaining positive evidence in this direction, and in presenting this present note and accompanying illustration, congratulates MESSRS. W. ATLEE BURPEE & Co. upon what must be regarded as a vindication of the statements made by them in introducing this dwarf race.

The *bona fides* of gentlemen who have spoken of low germinating power, failure of the plants to flower, etc., is not contested,—such, doubtless, was their experience. The evidence they supply does not prove the arguments, however, but if taken with facts, such as are here adduced, goes to show, they did not fully provide for the cultural demands of the plant.

Moreover, to the *Florists' Exchange*, as representing the American seed and florist trade, certain remarks of foreign writers as to “pompous recommendations” being “strictly American” seem to demand an answer, and we add to our own expressions from observation of the grand bed of pink Cupid the evidence of the photographic camera.

The picture herewith reproduced represents a bed 50 x 40 feet in a spot a dozen or so miles inland from the shores of Lake Ontario where the soil is shallow and of a hard cold clay loam nature. The plants on this place are being grown for seed, and at the time of our visit (September 3d) not only was the area a sheet of color, but there were evidences of what had been in the great profusion of seed pods which were being carried, and furthermore the end was not yet, for the buds still to show their blooms promised to make the sea of rosy-pink just as fine till frost should come.

As to the effect of pink Cupid used as a bedder, we confess, the sight astonished us; it was gorgeous in the extreme, especially when the sun shone on it and enhanced the brilliancy of the Blanche Ferry flowers, for such indeed they are, that popular variety being the source whence the dwarf has sprung. The continuity of bloom as seen on the bed in question, is a point for consideration; it did not run itself out with one burst of flower. The seed was sown two and one-half inches deep in hills two feet six inches apart, and the whole then treated as a hoed crop. The soil had received a surface dressing of lime, but this application can hardly have had much influence on the plants. We counted 121 stalks in blossom on one plant, and an average of three flowers to the stem. The height of the plant was six to eight inches, and the spread generally two feet, while occasionally one would run to thirty inches and even more, while the individual blooms measured across the standard one and one-quarter inches.

# TESTIMONY FROM GERMANY.

Translated from

THE HANDELSBLATT, No. 31, Berlin, August 1, 1897.

## Lathyrus Odoratus Cupido "rosa."

No. 29 of THE HANDELSBLATT contains a notice, according to which, it is claimed, seed of the American Novelty *Lathyrus Odoratus Cupido "rosa,"* sent by the grower direct to the editor of this journal for trial, did not germinate. This is, to say the least, astonishing, for I also received from the grower seed in the same way, of which every seed germinated. It is further claimed, according to above notice, that at the Exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society at London plants of this variety, exhibited in the open ground, appeared to relapse into the original variety. I am constrained to dispute this also, as with me every plant proved itself perfectly true both in habit and color.

During the past year I have planted large quantities of Cupid (white), and during the present year over one acre. I have exhibited them in Leipsic and Hamburg on a large scale, and there was not a single plant among the entire lot which showed a tendency to relapse into the original variety. I am much delighted with the manner in which this novelty retains its habit and color of the flower, a fact not often witnessed with other novelties.

HERRMANN GRUSSDORF,  
Of the firm of MARTIN GRASHOFF.

I have read in No. 29 of THE HANDELSBLATT an opinion of *Lathyrus odor. Cupido "rosa,"* which compels me to make the following comments :

I received, last spring, from W. Atlee Burpee & Co. 12 seeds of this novelty for trial planting, 11 of which germinated. The plants developed splendidly with a profusion of blossoms. The flowers are of fine form, solid, standard bright red, and wings white. Plants have plenty of seed, which I expect to gather the early part of August. They grow in low, compact bushes, having a diameter of 25 to 30 centimeters, and a height of 12 to 15 centimeters.

The white-flowering Cupid this year did splendidly. The first planting showed a large quantity of seed, which will be picked off during the first week in August. Of the second sowing, beginning of May, I submit a specimen plant, which, though having lost somewhat in appearance on account of the continuous rains during the past few days, will prove conclusively the truth of my assertion, and is a sufficient contradiction of the unjust and unfavorable criticism that appeared in THE HANDELSBLATT. I desire also to state that the accompanying plant was not selected as an exceptionally fine specimen, but was taken at random from the bed upon which Cupid was planted later.

FRIEDR. ROEMER.

Quedlinburg.

## The Highest Testimony from France

In answer to a personal letter from Germany, Mr. E. SCHAEETEL, of the well-known firm of MESSRS. VILMORIN-ANDRIEUX & Co., Paris, August 20, 1897, wrote as follows, concerning Burpee's PINK Cupid, tested in the firm's gardens both at Reully and Verrieres :

By referring to the *Bulletin de la Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France* for July, 1897, which you must have received, you will find the following note : "A Messrs. Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co., 4 Quai de la Mégisserie, Paris, au nom de Mons. Burpee des Etats-Unis une prime de 3e Classe pour 6 pots de Pois de Senteur Cupidon nain à fleur rose," and our leading horticultural paper, THE REVUE HORTICOLE, says in its number of the 16 July, No. 14, when speaking of the exhibits at the Société d'Horticulture : "Il faut signaler une nouveauté intéressante, le Pois de Senteur Cupidon rose, ce que détruira la monotonie de cette nouveauté."

When we showed the first plants of "Cupid rose," early in June, they had not flowers enough, but our head gardener thought that the flowers might be passed by the time of the second meeting on the 24th of June. The Committee, therefore, voted only "thanks" for this first lot of plants.

I afterward heard that they had 8 to 10 very fine plants of the "Cupid rose" grown at Verrieres, and I consequently requested the chief of the growing department to stage them again at the meeting of the 24th of June. For this second exhibit the Committee voted an Award of third class, which, considering that you already obtained a first-class certificate for the same category of plant, and that Sweet Peas are not a very popular flower in France, is a good attest for the merits of the new color.

I think that the firm will not have the least objection to your mentioning in your circulars that the rose Cupid Pea has succeeded very well in our grounds, has been admired by all who saw it, and that it will prove a valuable acquisition as a border plant.

# Reports on Burpee's PINK Cupid.

Geo. C. BUTZ, M. S., Horticulturist of the Pennsylvania State College Agricultural Experiment Station, State College, Centre Co., Pa., Sept. 9, 1897, writes:—From the ten seeds of BURPEE'S PINK CUPID SWEET PEA we have ten good plants, which began flowering when seven inches high, and now, full grown, are but fourteen inches long. As they rest upon the ground they make a mass of foliage and flowers about ten inches high. The flowers are above medium size, with broad, erect, slightly convex standard; the wings are large and arch over the keel after the manner of the White Cupid. The color of the standard is a light shade of pink, finely striped with carmine-pink; the wings are rosy-purple blotched with white. Burpee's Pink Cupid is an excellent companion for the White Cupid, and will always have a place to fill because of its dwarf habit.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Seedsman, Floral Park, N. Y., September 4, 1897, writes:—From the ten seeds of BURPEE'S PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, which you kindly sent us for trial, we raised several plants which bloomed freely. The style of growth and size of flower is exactly like the White Cupid, but the color is a beautiful pink, after the style of Painted Lady. It is certainly a most desirable acquisition.

L. W. GOODELL, Seedsman and Florist, Pansy Park, Dwight, Mass., Sept. 7, 1897, writes:—The packet of PINK CUPID SWEET PEA sent me for trial contained eleven seeds. They were planted early in March on a greenhouse bench along with other seeds. Every seed grew; in fact, there were twelve plants, an examination showing that one of the seeds had produced two sprouts, evidently having had two embryos. After they had grown an inch or two they were transplanted to four-inch pots, and finally shifted to the flowering-pots, five and six-inch. The plants were rather slender at first, but soon made strong lateral growths and fine plants. They have flowered freely, the first flowers opening early in June, and are still in bloom at this date, although they do not flower so freely now as earlier in the season. It is, in my opinion, a valuable acquisition. Its beautiful color, just like Blanche Ferry, and the fact that the seeds germinate as freely under ordinary conditions as any of the common varieties, will, no doubt, make it the most popular novelty of 1898.

JOHNSON & STOKES, Seedsmen, Philadelphia, Sept. 4, 1897, write:—Yours of September 2d, in regard to PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, received. The seeds in the packet sent us for trial germinated well and gave us quite a profusion of bloom, and we were surprised at the size of the individual flower, which was quite equal to Blanche Ferry.

WEBER & DON, Seed Merchants, 114 Chambers Street, New York, Sept. 7, 1897, write:—Replying to yours of the 2d inst., regarding PINK CUPID SWEET PEAS sent us for trial last year, we would say that we tested same, and the results were entirely satisfactory. The dwarf form being very useful in pot culture, and the colors of the flowers perfect. We think it a good "Novelty." Every seed grew and formed a plant.

F. B. GAULT, President of the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—Replying to your favor of Sept. 7, would state that we have found BURPEE'S PINK CUPID very satisfactory so far as prolific blooming and beauty of flower is concerned. It is a very attractive flower.

GEORGE VESTAL, Professor of Agriculture and Horticulture, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station, Mesilla Park, N. M., Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—The plants from BURPEE'S PINK CUPID seed sent to this station for trial last winter did finely. The plants are very compact and floriferous. The color quite distinct and pleasing. As compared with White Cupid they grew and bloomed freer.

H. BENTON, Secretary Canebrae Agricultural Experiment Station, Uniontown, Ala., Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—The seeds of BURPEE'S PINK CUPID were planted on the same plot with New Sweet Pea from California, Aurora, Golden Gate, Creole, Cupid, American Seedling, Brilliant, Maid of Honor, and were on an adjoining plot to Eckford's Mixture. PINK CUPID was as luxuriant grower and as profuse bloomer as any of them. Indeed, it is quite a profuse bloomer and is a most beautiful shade of pink. Pardon the personality,—but my Sweet Peas did excellent this year, and many ladies commented on their beauty and asked from whom I got the seed. Answer—BURPEE.

MESSRS. BIDDLES & Co., Loughborough, England, August 30, 1897, write:—We like the Sweet Pea very much and think it will prove a good acquisition.

MESSRS. HURST & SON, 152, Houndsditch, London, England, Sept. 18, 1897, write:—When sending you copies of the reports from our customers re PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, we by an oversight omitted to include that from Mr. Sherwood. We now have pleasure in saying he considers this variety a great acquisition and a fitting companion to the white variety. It is very floriferous, excellent in color and well fixed in habit. For pots or ribbon bordering it will be found all that is desired.

M. A. SCOVELL, Director, Agricultural Experiment Station of the State College of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., Sept. 14, 1897, writes:—We had great success with your Burpee's Pink Cupid this year.

HENRY E. GLAZIER, Horticulturist, of the Oklahoma Agricultural College and Experiment Station, Still Water, Okla., Sept. 13, 1897, writes:—Replying to your favor of September 2, 1897, will say we planted BURPEE'S PINK CUPID with 25 other choice varieties. Our Sweet Peas were the admiration of all, especially Burpee's Pink Cupid. I have no hesitancy in saying that the Burpee's Pink Cupid should be crowned queen.

ADOLPH JAENICKE, Florist, Landscape Gardener, and Seed Grower, Hagerstown, Md., Sept. 4, 1897, writes:—Your PINK CUPID is really a great, great improvement on the White Cupid, not in growth, for they have both the same compact habit; nor in abundance of flowers, for in that Pink Cupid is the worthy brother of the White; but the newborn pink imp is decidedly stronger than the White. In the Eastern parts of the United States White Cupid got somewhat scorched in the dry and hot month of July, and buds failed to open; this is entirely different in the Pink. Your ten seeds you were kind enough to send me I sowed out, and had of them nine plants; by the middle of June they were in full bloom, and were very much admired.

## Sweet Pea Cupid.

A few days ago, when visiting Mrs. Price's garden at Pen-Moel, near Chepstow, I was surprised to have some excellent clumps of this variety pointed out to me by Mr. Simpson, the gardener. He had planted the clumps in various positions, and each of them was a mass of blossoms. Some of the clumps were also podding freely. —From THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE, London, England, July 17, 1897.

MESSRS. FISHER, SON & SIBRAY, Sheffield, England, August 20, 1897, write:—Very great improvement on Cupid in size of flower, and a profuse bloomer.

MESSRS. PETER LAWSON & SON, LIMITED, Edinburgh, Scotland, August 31, 1897, write:—In reply to yours of the 20th, we tested the PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, and found it a pleasing and attractive Novelty, for which we expect there will be a good demand.

MESSRS. W. CLIBRAN & SON, Manchester, England, August 21, 1897, write:—In reply to yours of the 20th of August, no doubt the NEW SWEET PEA PINK CUPID will be an acquisition. It is a pleasing color, and the flowers do not seem to drop the same as the White variety.

MESSRS. FIDLER & SONS, Reading, England, August 21, 1897, write:—We are duly in receipt of your kind inquiry. We have made a trial of the new PINK CUPID SWEET PEA, and have found it do exceeding well. We consider it a novelty of splendid merit, and must prove a great acquisition to the Sweet Pea class.

MESSRS. E. P. DIXON & SONS, Hull, England, August 21, 1897, write:—The Pink Cupid Sweet Pea has done very well with us, growing about seven inches high, and producing very handsome pink flowers; it blooms freely and will be very suitable for pot culture.

MESSRS. DOBBIE & Co., Orpington, Kent, England, August 23, 1897, write:—We duly received the packet of Sweet Pea "PINK CUPID"; nine of the ten seeds grew and produced plants which have bloomed more freely we think than Cupid. It has really done very well with us. Cupid does very well with us as in any place we have seen. The color of Pink Cupid is good, and it will prove a valuable companion to the White one.

## The Sweet Pea Crop.

Sweet Peas are also improving daily, and if the gloomy anticipations of the growers on your side are verified by results our growers may be disposed to take up their culture once more. The Pink Cupid is now in bloom and fully justified our expectations, although the color is different to what we had supposed it would be. It is a Blanche Ferry with the Cupid habit reproduced in every particular, and unless America has something of a more startling nature in store for us it will probably be the novelty for next season. —EUROPEAN SEEDS IN THE FLORISTS' EXCHANGE, New York, July 3, 1897.

# Editorial from AMERICAN GARDENING,

New York, September 18, 1897.

## Concerning the Cupid Sweet Peas.

WHEN first it was announced that a new race of dwarf Sweet Pea had sprung into existence, a considerable amount of excitement was manifested throughout horticultural circles in Europe as well as in our own country. The possible value of this new arrival was largely discussed in the columns of *American Gardening* at the time, and it must be allowed the evidence produced was of a very conflicting nature.

In the year following the introduction of the original White Cupid Sweet Pea, the appearance of another dwarf with pink flowers began to be spoken of, and the introducers, MESSRS. W. ATLEE BURPEE & Co., of Philadelphia, early this season distributed among horticulturists a few seeds of the pink variety for trial. It has been noticed that while the Cupid Sweet Peas have not been so well favored in this country, the European gardeners have reported most favorably upon them, and it has been argued that though the plant did well on the Pacific Coast it would not hold up on the Atlantic sea-board. In view of recent experiences of our own, it is well to ask,—Why this suggestion? It would seem that those who have reported adversely upon these novelties have been judging from a wrong standpoint—that of the cut-flower grower, as is evidenced by the communication which appeared in our issue of July 17th last (page 502). Again, there have doubtless been errors of cultivation or treatment.

The demands of the decorative horticulturist are for many other plants than those which furnish flowers for cutting, and each one has its place; the evergreen shrub for perpetual greenery and life in winter; the grass plants to make a lawn as a setting for the flower beds; the ornamental foliaged plants to give color to a formal design; each has its use, and while each subject affords a mine of pleasure and satisfaction in its proper place, disappointment is sure to follow its improper application, and herein do so many mentors of horticultural opinion and taste fall into error.

That the Cupid Sweet Peas have suffered by just such conditions is apparent. The plants are essentially bedders—flowering bedders—and we are convinced by a recent experience in Jefferson County, N. Y., that, properly used in its own sphere, the dwarf Sweet Pea is to be placed in rank with other first-class plants of that type. No one grumbles at the Portulaca, yet it is but a flowering bedder, and how valuable in quiet suggestion are these Cupid Sweet Peas can only be realized by an actual inspection of such a showing as is represented in our frontispiece illustration in this issue, which is an actual photograph of the pink Cupid bed referred to in the foregoing remarks.

The effect produced by thus massing in an area, 50 x 40 feet, was astonishing to one who had before seen but a few isolated plants. Not only was the color fine (it is that of Blanche Ferry Sweet Pea, from which the pink Cupid has sported), but there was added the shading and blending of the hues of rosy-pink as the sun's rays glinted across a sheet of blooms in all positions, some full on, some sideways; there was moreover the ever welcome fragrance of the Sweet Pea wafted on the breeze.

And this matter of fragrance is not by any means a minor detail, though occasionally in our modern rush for "development" we are liable to sacrifice that prime quality to other considerations of size, form, and color. For was it not the fragrance that first called man's attention to the original *Lathyrus odoratus*? the name itself tells us so; and is not the Violet's chief charm in its odor?

A German contemporary has in a recent issue attacked the pink and white Cupid Sweet Peas; and, after reproducing certain discourteous allusions of a native seed firm, to "strictly American pompous recommendations," goes on to relate the same author's remarks that the plant is a "dwarf garden vetch," which it certainly is not. It further, "to complete the different expressions of opinion," quotes from *American Gardening* the sentences referred to in the first part of this note, and leaves the reader to infer that it was the expression of the paper itself. We object to that, and the *Handelsblatt* of Berlin will oblige by accepting with our compliments the present expression of opinion of the merits of the Cupid Sweet Peas.

The owner of the bed of pink Cupids, which is shown on page 645, informed us that the seed was sown two and a half inches deep in hills two feet six inches apart, and the whole then treated as a hoed crop. The soil was a heavy cold clay loam, and had received a surface dressing of lime, but this application can hardly have had much influence on the plants which were perfectly at home, flowering profusely—we counted 121 stalks in blossom on one plant and an average of three flowers to the stem. The health and vigor of the plants were fully demonstrated by the hundreds of seed pods from flowers already overpast, and though still carrying so freely there were buds innumerable yet to expand. The height of the plant was six to eight inches, and the spread generally two feet, while occasionally one would run to thirty inches and even more, while the individual blooms measured across the standard one and one-quarter inches.

The claim that Cupid seed had a low figure of germination has not been borne out by our experience and observation. Given the proper conditions, the Cupids are all right.

See Mr. Barron's Letter, page 3.

A representative of the *Florists' Exchange* made a trip into Jefferson County, N. Y., for the express purpose of putting to an end all doubt, as to whether statements and expressions not distinctly favorable to the Cupid Sweet Peas were true.

That these dwarf sweet peas flourished in full splendor in the climate of California has not once been disputed, but at the same time the claim has been urged that this novelty would not develop in the East, as it did in the West, its home.

The *Florists' Exchange* has been desirous of obtaining positive evidence in this direction, and in presenting this present note and accompanying illustration, congratulates MESSRS. W. ATLEE BURPEE & Co. upon what must be regarded as a vindication of the statements made by them in introducing this dwarf race.

The *bona fides* of gentlemen who have spoken of low germinating power, failure of the plants to flower, etc., is not contested,—such, doubtless, was their experience. The evidence they supply does not prove the arguments, however, but if taken with facts, such as are here adduced, goes to show, they did not fully provide for the cultural demands of the plant.

Moreover, to the *Florists' Exchange*, as representing the American seed and florist trade, certain remarks of foreign writers as to “pompous recommendations” being “strictly American” seem to demand an answer, and we add to our own expressions from observation of the grand bed of pink Cupid the evidence of the photographic camera.

The picture herewith reproduced represents a bed 50 x 40 feet in a spot a dozen or so miles inland from the shores of Lake Ontario where the soil is shallow and of a hard cold clay loam nature. The plants on this place are being grown for seed, and at the time of our visit (September 3d) not only was the area a sheet of color, but there were evidences of what had been in the great profusion of seed pods which were being carried, and furthermore the end was not yet, for the buds still to show their blooms promised to make the sea of rosy-pink just as fine till frost should come.

As to the effect of pink Cupid used as a bedder, we confess, the sight astonished us; it was gorgeous in the extreme, especially when the sun shone on it and enhanced the brilliancy of the Blanche Ferry flowers, for such indeed they are, that popular variety being the source whence the dwarf has sprung. The continuity of bloom as seen on the bed in question, is a point for consideration; it did not run itself out with one burst of flower. The seed was sown two and one-half inches deep in hills two feet six inches apart, and the whole then treated as a hoed crop. The soil had received a surface dressing of lime, but this application can hardly have had much influence on the plants. We counted 121 stalks in blossom on one plant, and an average of three flowers to the stem. The height of the plant was six to eight inches, and the spread generally two feet, while occasionally one would run to thirty inches and even more, while the individual blooms measured across the standard one and one-quarter inches.



Bed of Sweet Pea,—BURPEE'S PINK CUPID, in Jefferson Co., N. Y.

⌘ The above illustration was engraved from a photograph by THE FLORISTS' EXCHANGE, and appeared also in AMERICAN GARDENING of September 18, 1897, after a visit of the editor to one of our beds of Burpee's PINK CUPID.  
⌘ See editorials on pages 6 and 7.

Sole Wholesale Agents for Great Britain, Australian Colonies, and India :

Messrs. HURST & SON, 152, Houndsditch, London, England.